

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS CHAMPION SAFER ROADWAYS FOR LABOR DAY HOLIDAY TRAVELERS

An intensive traffic enforcement effort by Alabama's state troopers netted positive results for traffic safety in Alabama during the Labor Day holiday travel period. Four traffic deaths occurred during the 78-hour holiday period, far fewer than the 12 deaths the Department of Public Safety had projected.

Troopers increased patrols throughout the period, thanks to federal grants that funded the extra-duty enforcement effort. Special saturation enforcement details allowed troopers to apprehend traffic violators and increase officer visibility in selected high-traffic areas. They conducted line patrols on the state's major roadways on the Friday leading into the long travel weekend and again on Monday, Labor Day.

Also during the period, troopers dressed as construction workers used new laser speed detection devices to apprehend speeders in construction zones on the Interstate 20 corridor as part of "Operation Hard Hat."

Statewide enforcement activity included 3,785 speeding citations and 88 DUI arrests. Troopers also issued 892 safety belt citations and 34 citations for violation of Alabama's child restraint law. In addition, troopers assisted 420 motorists throughout the state.

"I appreciate the hard work by Alabama's troopers to make Alabama's roadways safer," said Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage. "Despite reduced manpower levels, the extra-duty enforcement, made possible by federal grants, helped save lives in Alabama during the Labor Day holiday."

Coppage said, "Alabamians should know that federal grant funding is contingent upon matching funds from Public Safety's General Fund allocations. Future grant funding could be in jeopardy if the Sept. 9 referendum fails to pass and Public Safety's General Fund budget is reduced."

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